

Streamhead Atlantic White Cedar Forest); other canopy trees may include red maple, pond pine, swamp tupelo, among a few others. Where the cedars grow very dense, there is little else beneath them because of dense shade; however, most stands feature “pocosin” species such as shining fetterbush (*Lyonia lucida*), big gallberry (*Ilex coriacea*), and sweetbay magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*).

Sandhill Seep. This community occupies very little space on the land surface, being typically no more than 10-30 feet wide and perhaps 200 feet in length. They occur on slopes where groundwater has hit an impervious clay layer and is shunted laterally to the surface. Seeps are fairly common in the Sandhills half of the county, but very rare in the Southern Inner Coastal Plain. Where frequently burned, a diverse wetland flora containing “savanna” species such as pitcher-plants (*Sarracenia* spp.) can be found; however, those that are fire-suppressed are choked with shrubs such as inkberry (*Ilex glabra*) and sweet pepperbush.

Streamhead Pocosin. This is one of the most common natural communities in the state, being the dominant wetland community along the smaller drains and streams in the Sandhills Region, but much less numerous in the Southern Inner Coastal Plain. The canopy is usually a mix of hardwoods such as swamp tupelo, red maple, and sweetgum, and two conifers – pond pine and Atlantic white-cedar. Broadleaf evergreens are prevalent, and nearly all Streamhead Pocosins contain some sweetbay magnolia and redbay in the subcanopy, and shining fetterbush, big gallberry, inkberry, and other woody species in the shrub layer. Bamboo-vine (*Smilax laurifolia*) typically drapes over the shrubs, making foot passage difficult. Deciduous species typical of the community are titi, sweet pepperbush, and dangleberry.

Pond Pine Woodland. Though a common community in the state’s Lower Coastal Plain, it is rare in Scotland County, being limited essentially to flatlands adjacent to the floodplain of the Lumber River, along the blend zone between Sandhills and Southern Inner Coastal Plain regions. The several extensive examples (Sites 14 and 15) in the county contain a dominance of pond pine in the canopy, typically mixed with loblolly pine and/or longleaf pine. Atlantic white-cedar can also be present. Various woody pocosin species, listed under “Streamhead Pocosin”, are present. This community tends to blend with Wet Pine Flatwoods along its inner margin and with various swamp communities closer to the river channel.

High Pocosin. This is a common natural community farther downstate, such as in peat-filled bays in the Bladen Lakes region and in larger pocosin areas near the coast. The community is probably absent, or very rare, in the Sandhills, but one or two small, borderline examples are present in Scotland County along the edge between Sandhills and Southern Inner Coastal Plain (Site 15). Typically there is no canopy, but instead tall shrubs or very small trees dominate – such as titi, big gallberry, shining fetterbush, obovate coastal juneberry (*Amelanchier obovalis*), and in wetter places honey-cups (*Zenobia pulverulenta*). Some depressions in the Sandhills Region that are dominated by pocosin shrubs are best treated as the next natural community.